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Room damages, safety hazards yield new UNL housing policies

By Kevin McCoy
Daily Nebraskan Staff Writer

New policies regarding lofts and refrigerators were outlined in an open forum at a Residence Hall Association meeting in the East Campus Terraces.

Glen Schumann, assistant director of housing for maintenance and operations, said that next fall only free-standing lofts and bunks will be allowed in the halls. Large refrigerators also will be prohibited, he said. Although no specific maximum refrigerator size has yet been determined, Schumann said, the ban probably would include any refrigerator exceeding the dimensions of the largest refrigerators currently available for rental in the halls.

Damage problems and safety hazards led to the restrictions on loft construction, Schumann said. Many students damage their rooms' desks or bookcases by using them to help support the weight of their beds. Room furniture was not designed to hold the extra weight, he said, and in Abel

Hall, several bookcases have been pulled out of the wall.

Because lofts and bunks have become more popular in the last five or six years, Schumann said, the administrative staff worried that damage problems would get out of hand if they were not remedied soon.

Also cited as a reason to restrict lofts was the possibility of bookcases crashing down and injuring residents.

Despite the new rule, all lofts and bunks that do not use any room furniture as part of their basic structure still will be permitted, Schumann said.

The change in refrigerator policy resulted from damage caused in transporting refrigerators in and out of the halls, Schumann said. Three doorknobs had to be replaced this summer because refrigerators had been forced in and out of rooms, he said.

Students who do not use proper equipment for moving refrigerators also have damaged elevators and loosened and chipped floor tile, Schumann said.

The policy change also would

cut down on electricity usage and storage problems. Because of shortage of space and a Lincoln ordinance that requires refrigerators to be either behind locked doors or chained, storing refrigerators has been a problem. Residents who abandon large refrigerators also have burdened maintenance crews, Schumann said.

Another idea under maintenance consideration is the installation of central overhead room lights in the high-rise complexes of Abel-Sandoz, Cather-Pound and Harper-Schramm-Smith. Schumann said the extraordinary cost of replacing the twist-around lamps in some of the halls might be better invested this way. He said the idea would have to be considered relative to other student priorities for next year.

In other action, RHA approved in a straw vote to recommend that the housing office delay the implementation of "unlimited food" in university food services until student opinion and cost considerations could be accurately assessed.



Dave Weezy/Daily Nebraskan

Curtis Marti swings into action during the breakdance contest in front of Pershing Auditorium. The event was part of the Lincolnfest celebration in the city during the weekend. Ron Hager, a Lincolnfest coordinator, said the committee tentatively is planning another contest in the Pershing Auditorium before Thanksgiving because of the enthusiasm for the event. About 500 people attended the contest.

Students' costs are small slice of UNL pie

Tuition pays faculty salary

By Kevin Dugan
Daily Nebraskan Staff Writer

Editor's note: This is the first article in a five-part series examining where student money paid to the university goes and how it is spent.

several other major sources of income. State-appropriated tax dollars provide the largest portion of these funds, he said.

Federal funds are mostly allocated for agriculture experiment station research and the agriculture cooperative extension service, Knisely said.

Revolving funds from auxiliary enterprises such as the stores in the Nebraska and East unions, lab fees, and the selling of livestock and produce from the experiment stations also provide money for UNL operating expenses.

Library fines, endowment fund income and investment on idle cash by the State Investment Council round out what is called the "other cash" fund, Knisely said. The \$20 late-tuition payment fee, which annually nets about \$90,000, is contained in this fund, he said.

All these sources of income are used to meet instructional costs, of which tuition alone accounts for about 32 percent.

But to say student tuition accounts for nearly a third of overall UNL expenses is false. Knisely said the university is a quarter-of-a-billion dollar annual enterprise for which tuition provides less than 9 percent.

According to the 1984-85 UNL Summary of Expenditures, the College of Arts and Sciences receives the greatest portion (30 percent) of these funds. Except for the Graduate College, the School of Journalism receives the smallest proportion (1.2 percent).

Where Does Your Money Go?

While tuition takes a big bite out of student budgets, it amounts to barely a nibble for the university.

Even with annual increases, tuition, which has almost doubled in the last eight years, pays about one-third of instructional costs and considerably less of the university's overall budget.

Student tuition is used by the university primarily to pay professors. Robert Clark, director of Student Accounts said the money goes to pay salaries, wages and services provided by the colleges and their departments.

UNL budgets, as does any other business, Clark said, with straight forward accounting procedures — payments in and payments out. He said the budgets are based on historical experience and future projections of students and the number of credit hours they will carry.

J.W. Knisely, UNL comptroller, said that along with tuition, the university has

Student fees finance extras

By Lisa Nutting
Daily Nebraskan Staff Writer

Student fees are the mainstay for UNL services, like the student unions, University Health Center and various recreational programs and facilities.

But some students think these services are "extras" to the academic curriculum. Student fees finance those "extras" because many college administrators think students develop physically, socially and emotionally, as well as intellectually, throughout their college years.

Student fees, also called University Program and Facilities Fees, cover the cost of student programs and services not financed by tuition or tax monies. These fees make up \$95.28 of the tuition paid by each student enrolled in seven or more hours of classes.

Student fees are divided into two parts, Fund A and Fund B. Fund A is refundable, Fund B is not. Fund A supports student organizations like the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska, State Student Association, the Daily Nebraskan and the University Program Council.

Fund B supports student services such as the unions, the health center and various recreational programs and facilities.

Fund A refunds of \$5.72 can be obtained from the Student Activities Financial Services office, Nebraska Union, 222. However some student privileges will be lost.

Although some students will not use all the services they pay for, all are required to pay Fund B of the fees.

"Student fees aren't considered to be user fees," Suzanne Brown, assistant vice

chancellor of Student Affairs, said. "They are a part of the cost of attending the university."

"Naturally, some are not happy about it," Brown said.

Even students who are enrolled in independent studies or an internship outside of Lincoln must pay student fees.

Brown said many students petition their fees each semester. These students, often non-traditional students, graduate students, those on field location or those working on their doctoral dissertation say they don't use the facilities and should not have to pay the fees, Brown said.

"Once we were to make an exception, we would just open Pandora's box," Brown said. "If we waive a student from Buffalo, N.Y., what about a student from Omaha or the 45-year-old who has his own (local) doctor?"

"It goes on and on," Brown said. "We don't waive the fees because for every reason, there are many others (students) in the same situation."

During the 1983-84 school year, 806 students filled out applications for a Fund A refund. According to Doug Metzger, manager of SAFS, 683 students returned to collect their refunds.

"Our function in this office is to administer the refunds and do it in a non-biased manner," Metzger said. "We recognize that students have a right to their refund."

Brown said the state will not pay for any of the student "extras" — so only those organizations that are self-sustaining would survive.